

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claim 16 is withdrawn from consideration.
Claims 1-15 and 17-31 stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 17 are currently amended and claim 16 is canceled without prejudice.
Reconsideration of the claim rejections is requested.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants have canceled claim 16 without prejudice in view of the restriction requirement.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 607, 10, 13-14, 17-19, 22-23, 26 and 29-30 are rejected as being anticipated by US. Patent No. 6,868,403 to Wiser.

Applicants respectfully contend that at the very least, claims 1 and 17 are patentably distinct and patentable over Wiser. For example, Wiser does not teach or suggest processing first validation data by a Consumer in accordance with a services invocation specification to generate a set of second validation data, wherein the set of second validation data is processed by a service Provider to evaluate a capability of the Consumer to use the service of the service Provider, as essentially claimed in claims 1 and 17

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Wiser (in Cols 18 and 19) to reject claims 1 and 17. However, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17 to make it further clear that the validation data is used to evaluate the capability of a Consumer to user a service of a service Provider. Wiser clearly does not teach the fundamental inventive concepts of claims 1 and 17 in Cols. 18 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Without elaboration, all obviousness rejections set forth on pages 7-11 of the Office Action are rendered moot and legally deficient at least by virtue of the Examiner's primary reliance on the teachings of Wiser with regard to claims 1 and 17, to establish obviousness. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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